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*Music legend Michael Jackson has died at the age of 50, after suffering a cardiac arrest at his home in Beverly Hills. Jackson, who had a history of health problems, had been due to stage a series of comeback concerts in the UK in July. David Willis reports from Los Angeles.*

Michael Jackson's body was **airlifted** from hospital to the **coroner's office** in downtown Los Angeles. TV stations here **carried live coverage** of the helicopter's journey. An autopsy will be carried out later today to establish the precise cause of his death.

**Paramedics** had been called to the Beverly Hills mansion Michael Jackson had been renting whilst he prepared for a series of fifty **sold-out shows** in London next month. The singer's brother Jermain told a news conference that after they failed to **resuscitate** him, Jackson was transferred to a nearby hospital where a team of doctors worked for more than an hour in a **vain attempt** to revive him.

Only a few hours earlier Michael Jackson had been rehearsing at a local sports stadium, but concerns about his fitness for the concert tour had already begun to circulate, amid reports that he was looking **frail**. Hundreds of fans have **maintained a vigil** outside the hospital to which he was taken, some to **mourn his passing**, others to celebrate his music.

For all the **controversy** that surrounded the latter part of his career several commentators here have likened his musical legacy to that of Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and Elvis Presley.

David Willis, BBC News, Los Angeles

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>airlifted</b>	moved by aircraft or helicopter (here, because of an emergency)
<b>coroner's office</b>	a place where an official person examines the reason why someone died unexpectedly
<b>carried live coverage</b>	broadcast news and events as they happened
<b>Paramedics</b>	medical workers specially trained to deal with emergencies
<b>sold-out shows</b>	concerts so popular, that there are no tickets left to buy
<b>vain attempt</b>	when you try to do something difficult but without much chance of succeeding
<b>resuscitate</b>	bring someone back to life or consciousness
<b>frail</b>	weak, unhealthy
<b>maintained a vigil</b>	stayed in one place to think about and honour an ill or dead person
<b>mourn his passing</b>	express sadness over his death
<b>controversy</b>	difficulties, trouble

**More on this story:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/8119993.stm>

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/06/090626\\_witn\\_jackson\\_page.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/06/090626_witn_jackson_page.shtml)